

Message Text

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0018

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE COMMENT ON BRUCE ARRIVAL AND PRCLO ADVANCE

BEGIN SUMMARY. CHINESE FLEXIBLE RE USLO OPENING DATE. RELUCTANT
HAVE AMERICAN PRESS COVER BRUCE ARRIVAL BUT RESERVE FINAL
ANSWER. DO NOT WANT PRESS COVERAGE PRCLO ADVANCE ARRIVAL.
END SUMMARY.

1. ESPECIALLY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AT RETURN BANQUET
APRIL 13. SPEECHES AT TIMES HUMOROUS; DIRECTED LARGELY
AT DEPARTING GUEST, BUT CHANG WEN CHIN MADE RARE REFERENCE TO
"LIBERATION PERIOD" WHEN HE AND I WERE "BOTH IN TIENTSIN BUT
UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER".
HISTORY MAY HAVE RELATIVELY BRIEF, AWKWARD PERIODS BUT
NOW HISTORY HAS CHANGED AND WE CAN BE FRIENDS. HAVE ENTERED NEW
ERA OF INCREASING COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

2. OVER COFFEE CHANG SAID AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S ARRIVAL DATE
SHOULD BE UP TO HIM. IMPORTANT THING WAS HIS ARRIVAL ITSELF,
WHICH WAS BIG EVENT IN OUR RELATIONS. MAY FIRST HOLIDAY IRREVELANT.
CHINESE VERY ANXIOUS USLO AND PRCLO BOTH GET OFF TO AS NEAR
"PERFECT START" AS POSSIBLE. CHINESE WERE UNCOMFORTABLE THAT THEY
COULD NOT HAVE EVERYTHING AS READY AS THEY WOULD LIKE FOR BRUCE
ARRIVAL, BUT THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST BY PEKING'S STANDARDS,
WHICH EVERY ONE KNEW - THEY MOST OF ALL - WERE NOT WASHINGTON'S
STANDARDS. I SAID I THOUGHT PEKING'S STANDARDS WERE ALREADY
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PAGE 02 PEKING 00018 161459 Z

HIGH. WE ONLY HAD TO HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AS TO BEST MEANS COPE WITH OUR TECHNICAL NEEDS, WHICH WE WERE CONFIDENT COULD BE SOLVED TO MUTUAL SATISFACTION. AT LEAST FROM ADVANCE TEAM VIEW WE THOUGHT WE COULD OPEN BEFORE ALL OF THESE NEEDS MET, WITH PROSPECT THEY COULD FAIRLY SOON THEREAFTER BE SATISFIED. I BELIEVED USG AND AMBASSADOR BRUCE WOULD WISH TO MEET CHINESE PREFERENCE FOR OPENING DATE IF THERE WERE ONE. CHANG REITERATED FLEXIBILITY, BUT SAID IF HE HAD FURTHER THOUGHTS HE WOULD LET ME KNOW. (COMMENT: BELIEVE CHINESE SINCERE RE FLEXIBILITY . ALL THINGS CONSIDERED AS SEEN HERE, BALANCING CHINESE DESIRE FOR REASONABLY EARLY OPENING AGAINST THEIR WISH TO HAVE FACILITIES AS NEAR READY AS POSSIBLE, BELIEVE DATE SUCH AS MONDAY, MAY 14 PLUS OR MINUS SOME 10 DAYS DEPENDING CONSIDERATIONS AT WASHINGTON END WOULD BE REASONABLE TARGET. PLEASE ADVISE WHEN POSSIBLE.)

3. CHINESE CLEARLY RELUCTANT HAVE AMERICAN PRESS COVER BRUCE ARRIVAL - OUT OF FEAR, I BELIEVE, THAT PRESS WOULD COMMENT UNFAVORABLY ON LACK OF READINESS OF OFFICE AND ADEQUATE RESIDENCE SPACE, ESPECIALLY IF DOCUMENTED WITH PICTURES. CHANG EMPHASIZED WAS NOT YET GIVING DEFINITIVE ANSWER. WANTED TO THINK THROUGH ALL ANGLES FIRST.

4. ON OTHER HAND, CHINESE PLAINLY DO NOT WANT PRESS TO MEET ADVANCE PARTY IN WASHINGTON. ASSUME WE CAN ARRANGE PROTECT THEM DURING SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES STOPS AND WHISK THEM FROM PLANESIDE STRAIGHT TO HOTEL IN WASHINGTON.
JENKINS

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